

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 IGA-02 AF-10 SAM-01

DRC-01 /177 W

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R 250250Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1840

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SN, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN MILITARY INCREASES REGIONAL CONTACTS

REF: A. NEW DELHI 5219; B. USDAO SINGAPORE DTG 120800Z MAR 74

NOTAL; C. USDAO SINGAPORE DTG 250537Z MAR 74 NOTAL;

D. USDAO SINGAPORE IR NO. 6 887 0055 74 NOTAL

1. REFTTEL WAS FIRST INTIMATION THIS EMBASSY
HAS RECEIVED THAT COL. AERIA'S VISIT TO INDIA
WAS IN RESPONSE TO INDIAN INITIATIVE. EMBASSY
BELIEVES THAT AS MARITIME COMMANDER, COL. AERIA'S
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VISIT WAS PRIMARILY IN CONJUNCTION WITH VISIT

TO INDIAN PORTS OF SINGAPORE MISSILE BOAT
FLOTILLA. AS REPORTED REFS B, C AND D, FROM
GOS VIEWPOINT VISIT WAS PLANNED AS COMBINATION
GOOD WILL/SALES PROMOTION TRIP AND WITH VIEW TO
TESTING AND DEMONSTRATING JAGUAR PGM DISTANCE
CAPABILITY.

2. COL. AERIA IS CERTAINLY NOT IN A SUFFI-
CIENTLY HIGH POLICY POSITION TO EVEN CONSIDER
RESPONDING TO INDIAN CONCERNS OVER US PLANS TO
EXPAND THE DIEGO GARCIA FACILITY. FURTHER-
MORE, IF GOI WERE TO APPROACH GOS ON THIS SUBJECT,
IT WOULD BE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE. ALTHOUGH
GOS HAS MADE NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA,
IT HAS PRIVATELY CONVEYED TO US ITS APPROVAL
OF US PLANS TO EXPAND MILITARY FACILITIES THERE.

3. REGRETTABLY, SINGAPORE MISSILE BOAT VISIT ENDED
IN FIASCO FOR INDIAN/SINGAPORE BILATERAL
MILITARY COOPERATION. VISIT SUMMARILY TERMINATED
BY ORDER MINISTER OF DEFENSE WHEN SINGAPORE DIS-
COVERED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED EXORBITANT CHARGES
FOR FUEL AND NORMAL PORT SERVICES. (SEE
REF D.) CONSEQUENTLY, JOINT EXERCISES WITH
UNITS OF INDIAN NAVY WERE NEVER CARRIED OUT. MINDEF
OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT EXPERIENCE
ONLY CONFIRMED THEIR BELIEF IN "BASIC UNTRUST-
WORTHINESS OF INDIANS." DESPITE MINDEF PIQUE,
IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER EXCESS COSTS WERE RESULT
OF EXCESS CHARGES IN INDIA OR POOR BUDGETING BY
SMC.

4. CONCERNING MILITARY SALES, SINGAPORE WANTS
TO SELL NOT BUY. GOS CONSIDERS ITSELF BEYOND
MILITARY SOPHISTICATION OF ANY INDIAN EQUIPMENT.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE UNSUCCESSFUL NATURE OF
VISIT AND PIQUE DISPLAYED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE
AND OTHER DEFENSE OFFICIALS, GOS PROBABLY STILL
INTERESTED IN FRIENDLY BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERA-
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TION WITH GOI. CRONK

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Message Attributes

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